

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejected Claims 7, 15-20, and 22-24 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Office Action also rejected Claims 1-6, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 25. Applicants have also added Claims 27 and 28. Accordingly, Claims 1-28 are now pending. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview on October 31, 2003

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to meet with Applicants' representative on October 31, 2003. During this meeting, the Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed proposed amendments to the claims and their applicability to the disclosure of the prior art. The present amendments to the claims are intended to reflect this discussion.

Rejection of Claims 7, 15-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected Claims 7, 15-20, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shewd, US Patent 5,606,668. Applicants have amended Claims 7, 16, 17, 18, 22 and 24 to more specifically indicate that the policy application is to application level email message which has been assembled from a plurality of packets.

Shewd does not process application level e-mail messages, as is recited by the amended claims, but rather is examining properties of network level packets. Moreover, Shewd does not recite examining textual content of an application level message, as recited by the amended claims. Therefore, Claims 7, 15-20, and 22-24 are allowable over Shewd for at least these reasons alone.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-6, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landfield, US Patent No. 5,632,011, Bruce Schneier: Applied Cryptography 2nd Edition, Oct. 1995, John Wiley & Sons Pub. and Official Notice taken. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, and 25 to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants disagree with the Office Action conclusion that Landfield discloses an e-mail firewall which intercepts a message from a sender, or to a recipient, as is recited by Claims 1-6, 25, and 26. Rather, Landfield discloses that the

same e-mail firewall generates and encrypts a sent message or decrypts and processes a received message. Landfield does not disclose a user employing a process outside of the e-mail firewall that is used to generate or process the message. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly indicate such logical separation. Therefore, Claims 1-6, 25, and 26 are allowable over the prior art for at least this reason alone.

New claims 27 and 28

Applicants have added new Claims 27 and 28 to recite properties of an e-mail message which are referred to by the method of Claim 17. The new claims are fully supported by the specification as filed and therefore contain no new matter. Furthermore, the new claims merely define elements of independent Claim 17 and therefore do not necessitate a new search.

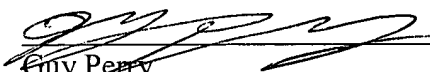
SUMMARY

In view of the forgoing supporting remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending Claims 1-28. This application is now believed to be in a condition for allowance.

If the Examiner wishes to direct any questions concerning this application to the undersigned Applicants' representative, please call the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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